

second input signal to allow current conduction from said voltage source to said node when said second input signal is offset from said voltage source by a voltage substantially equal to and greater than said second threshold voltage and to disallow said current conduction when said second input signal is offset from said voltage source by a voltage less than said second threshold voltage; and

connecting a driving signal as said first input signal of said first switchably conductive device and as said second input signal of said second switchably conductive device.

2. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, comprising:

connecting between said node and said voltage source one or more additional switchably conductive devices each characterized by a respective threshold voltage different than said first threshold voltage, said second threshold voltage, and each other respective threshold voltage, each said one or more additional switchably conductive devices responsive to a respective input signal to allow current conduction from said voltage source to said node when said respective input signal is offset from said voltage source by a voltage substantially equal to and greater than said respective threshold voltage and to disallow said current conduction when said respective input signal is offset from said voltage source by a voltage less than said respective threshold voltage; and

connecting said driving signal as said respective input signal of said respective switch of each of said respective one or more additional switchably conductive devices.

3. (Amended) An apparatus for reducing the slew rate of transition edges of a digital signal on a node of an integrated circuit, comprising:

a first switchably conductive device characterized by a first threshold voltage, said first switchably conductive device connected between said node and a voltage source and responsive to a driving signal to allow current conduction from said voltage source to said node when said driving signal is offset from said voltage source by a voltage substantially equal to and greater than said first threshold

voltage and to disallow said current conduction when said driving signal is offset from said voltage source by a voltage less than said first threshold voltage; and

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a second switchably conductive device characterized by a second threshold voltage greater than said first threshold voltage, said second switchably conductive device connected between said node and said voltage source and responsive to said driving signal to allow current conduction from said voltage source to said node when said driving signal is offset from said voltage source by a voltage substantially equal to and greater than said second threshold voltage and to disallow said current conduction when said driving signal is offset from said voltage source by a voltage less than said second threshold voltage.

B2  
Sub E1  
5. (Amended) An apparatus in accordance with claim 3, comprising:

one or more additional switchably conductive devices each characterized by a respective threshold voltage different than said first threshold voltage, said second threshold voltage, and each other respective threshold voltage, each said one or more additional switchably conductive devices connected between said node and said voltage source and responsive to said driving signal to allow current conduction from said voltage source to said node when said driving signal is offset from said voltage source by a voltage substantially equal to and greater than said respective threshold voltage and to disallow said current conduction when said driving signal is offset from said voltage source by a voltage less than said respective threshold voltage.

B3  
Sub E1  
7. (Twice Amended) A method for controlling the slew rate of transition edges of a digital signal on a node of an integrated circuit, said method comprising the steps of:

driving, with a driving signal, a first switchably conductive device characterized by a first threshold voltage and connected between said node and a voltage source, said first switchably conductive device responsive to said driving signal to allow current conduction from said voltage source to said node when said driving signal is offset from said voltage source by a voltage substantially equal to and greater than said first threshold voltage and to disallow said current conduction